



February 4, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!



Autism Weekly

Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

412.781.4116 or toll free: 800.827.9385

ABOARD'S MISSION:

There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients.

The entire mission statement can be found at
<http://aboard.web.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>

SpecialCare™ Government Programs Workshop
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ABOARD OFFICE

35 Wilson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Free but registration is required and limited to 50 seats!

For parents of a loved one with special needs government programs are often a part of their current and future plans. Helen Sims, a Special Care Planner and Jillian Zacks, JD from the financial group of Guyaux Mandler Mah will be facilitating this workshop.

Topics Addressed:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Medicaid/Medicaid Waivers
- State Specific Programs
- Eligibility requirements

- **Benefits available**
- **Medical Coverage**
- **Application and Appeal process**
- **Funding Options**

This presentation is designed to be introductory in nature. Parents wishing to have their specific family situation discussed are welcome to schedule individual appointments as needed.

Please note that this program is endorsed by Easter Seals, as well as Exceptional Parent Magazine, a leading publication for families with special needs. We are a resource for education, support, and ongoing service to families with special care needs by providing a team of specialists who offer solutions that coordinate with the overall financial plan, and are consistent with the family's vision and values.

For more information, or to RSVP for this workshop please call 412.562.4439 or register online.

[REGISTRATION](#)

Thank you  for sponsoring!



Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the support of our sponsors!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Feature
- Rural
- Research
- Of Interest
- Events/Info

[QUICK LINKS](#)

ABOARD

[NEWSLETTER](#)

Click here to learn about
What's Happening



SOUTH HILLS LOCATION	PITTSBURGH AFFILIATE
110 Fl. Couch Rd., 2nd Floor	5167 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15241	Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: (412) 831-1223	Phone: (412) 781-3990
Fax: (412) 831-1034	Fax: (412) 781-3966

www.shs-pgh.org

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING
PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES FOR
FREE!**

at ABOARD and all our
upcoming events, conference
and seminars for 2010!

Designs by Ja9

New Autism Awareness products now available online!

www.designsbyja9.com

Just click on the "Support Autism Awareness" link on the homepage
and be sure to select **ABOARD** as the benefactor of the \$10
donation for each puzzle purchased.

This Valentine's Day

Show your love while supporting Autism Awareness with these *Limited Edition* cherry red [Autism Awareness Puzzle Pieces](#) made in the USA by glass artist Janine Stillman.

Available only until 2/28/11.

(an 18" black magnetic cable choker is included in this special promotion)
\$30 each plus shipping (and tax for CA residents)

The "Romantic" Puzzle

A cherry red puzzle piece adorned
with scrolls of beautiful gold/orange/pink
dichroic glass suspended from a silver
or gold plated hanging loop.



The "Contemporary" Puzzle

A cherry red puzzle piece adorned with splashes of beautiful gold/orange/pink dichroic glass and polka dots suspended from a silver or gold plated hanging loop.



Support Autism Awareness Dichroic glass puzzle piece jewelry and gifts www.designsbyja9.com

ABOARD will receive a donation of \$10 for each puzzle purchased.

*Autism...
Together we can solve the puzzle!*

.....Feature.....

MIT: Understanding the autistic mind

Neuroscientists find evidence that autistic patients have trouble understanding other people's intentions. A study from MIT neuroscientists reveals that high-functioning autistic adults appear to have trouble using theory of mind to make moral judgments in certain situations.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-01/miot-mut012811.php

Autism's moral judgment gap explored

People with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder, such as Asperger's syndrome, often manage to develop strategies that help them deduce other people's states of mind and thus function in society. But a [new study](#), published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, finds that these people still have trouble using theory of mind to make complex moral judgments.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-autism-judgment-20110131,0,5225784.story>

Rural



Autism center planned at Highlands Hospital

Families of individuals with autism will soon have a scientifically based year-round education facility for their loved ones in Connellsville Township.

The Highlands Hospital Center for Autism will open in May or June with a maximum population of 20, ranging from first diagnosis through age 22.

[Autism center planned at Highlands Hospital - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/dailycourier/news/connellsville/s_720931.html#ixzz1CuszRRiw)http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/dailycourier/news/connellsville/s_720931.html#ixzz1CuszRRiw

Research



UPMC Receives \$460,000 To Continue Serving As One Of 17 National Autism Treatment Network Sites

UPMC has received \$460,000 in funding from Autism Speaks to continue its participation as an Autism Treatment Network (ATN) site. The three-year foundation grant supports comprehensive diagnosis and medical evaluation for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The local site is a collaboration among the Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders at UPMC, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh Center for Excellence in Autism Research.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/215003.php>

Of Interest



There's something different about dad

We've heard of the difficulties faced by parents trying to cope with Asperger syndrome in children but it's tough too being the child of an Asperger parent

<http://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/parenting/theres-something-different-about-dad-2517591.html>

Events/Info



ABOARD Support Group Meeting

For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org !

Just Us Parents - Autism Support Group

Find support, encouragement and help in your parenting of a child on the Spectrum Autism, PDD-NOS, Aspergers. Meet other parents; Support one another; Share information and ideas; Get resource information; Meeting the needs of those who attend.

Location/Address Panera Bread Company at 7217 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (Across from Ross Park Mall)

Time 7pm to 9pm

Monthly The Support Group meet once a month.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7

Contact Name Astrid Camille Arroyo and Maureen Wirth

Contact Phone 412-358-0393 or 724-625-0284

Contact Email la.bella@verizon.net or mhwirth@gmail.com

GET CONNECTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Perspective Program: Intervention Research Study for Adults with ASD

The Perspectives Program at the University of Pittsburgh is developing new non-drug interventions to meet the unique needs of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, between the ages of 16-40, are now being accepted into the program. All participants will receive one of two new

experimental interventions, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy, at no cost. Participants must be able to come to the University of Pittsburgh on a regular basis. A new session is beginning soon. To enroll or find out more information contact 1-866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

Perfect Fit Canines

A 501(c)(3) non profit is dedicated to training service dogs to perfectly fit the needs of individuals with autism. Join us at our Open House, February 9, 2011 from 6 to 8 pm at Misty Pines Dog Park, 2523 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley, PA. Meet our staff, trainers and amazing dogs.
Susan Wagner, Executive Director, Perfect Fit Canines 412 359 9789

Including Samuel: Documentary Film Screening 2/13

In honor of February's Jewish Disability Awareness Month please join the Agency for Jewish Learning, the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh in a community film screening of Including Samuel: A Documentary by Photojournalist Dan Habib. Conversation to follow.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh
(5738 Forbes Ave., Kaufmann Building, Room 204)

Sunday, February 13, 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Individuals requiring special accommodations call 412-521-1101 x3206 or email tsteinberg@ajlpittsburgh.org.

Highlands Hospital Community Awareness Kick-Off Event

In June 2010, Highlands Hospital entered into a consulting agreement with Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions (CCADS) to collaborate in the development of the Highlands Hospital Center for Autism. Join Highlands Hospital and CCADS Autism experts to preview the center for autism's development, mission and philosophy. The event will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club located at 440 Pleasant Valley Road, Connellsville, PA 15425 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. This event is free and open to the public. Pre registration is not required. Inquiries can be addressed to afreger@highlandshospital.org.

Canon-Mac Special Families Network Presents The 2nd Annual Summer Activity Fair

Feb. 10 at the high school from 7-9 pm. Also, in the event of school cancelation due to snow, the event is postponed until Feb. 17. Canon-Mac High School (314 Elm St. Ext. Canonsburg, PA 15317). Connect with organizations that provide recreational programs, summer camps and ESY services for students. Families from ALL area school districts are welcome! For more information email CMSFNinfo@gmail.com or call Ellen Cicconi at 724-743-0244.

Highlands Hospital Community Awareness Kick-Off Event

In June 2010, Highlands Hospital entered into a consulting agreement with Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions (CCADS) to collaborate in the development of the Highlands Hospital Center

for Autism. Join Highlands Hospital and CCADS Autism experts to preview the center for autism's development, mission and philosophy. The event will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club located at 440 Pleasant Valley Road, Connellsville, PA 15425 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. This event is free and open to the public. Pre registration is not required. Inquiries can be addressed to afreger@highlandshospital.org.

Capernaum Interest Meeting and Game Night!

Capernaum is a ministry for teens and young adults with special needs, ages 14-25. We are hosting an interest meeting for parents on Friday, February 18th at 7pm at The Life Center. The Life Center is located at 1810 Valley Ave, New Brighton, PA 15066 - next to the Beaver County YMCA. We will be playing games and providing snacks for the kids while we provide information for parents on what Capernaum is doing in the community. For more information, contact Marguerite Christy at marguerite.christy@gmail.com

Caregiver Support Group offered by the Pittsburgh Caregiver Support Network.

Pittsburgh Caregiver Support Network is now offering in person support groups in the North Hills and Southside of Pittsburgh.

Our next group meets Monday, February 14th at 1:00 p.m. at Northland Public Library. For details, please contact Katharine Bulova at 412-735-0436.

I.E.P. BOOTCAMP! Autism Sharing and Parenting

What parents need to know to survive the Individualized Educational Plan Process

Presented by: Cathy Roccia-Meier & Sabra Townsend

Get the basics and uncover new facts about the IEP process.

The roles of an effective IEP Team

Why Present Levels of Performance are important and what they should be

Understand SDIs (Specially Designed Instructions) and see what some look like

What does Progress Monitoring look like

How is Extended School Year eligibility addressed

Level of Service vs. Level of Inclusion

Examine your multi-year IEPs to get Educational Benefit

And more . . .

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

6:15pm-7:30pm

CBH

8th & Market, 7th floor

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(8th St. entrance across from 'ROSS')

Light meal provided

Let us know you plan to attend!

Call the RSVP Line*

ODR

ODR has been contacted by the University of Northern Colorado and Dr. Tracy Mueller regarding research she is conducting on IEP Facilitation. IEP Facilitation is a fairly new dispute resolution method, and Pennsylvania is one of the few states utilizing this process. For that reason, Dr. Mueller is interested in speaking with Pennsylvania parents and educators who have participated in IEP Facilitation within the last two years to learn about best practices in this area of dispute resolution. Voluntary participation by parents and educators will provide valuable information to Dr. Mueller, and, by association, ODR, regarding the successes and challenges of IEP Facilitation and will help guide future refinement of the IEP Facilitation service currently offered by ODR. Therefore, we are seeking your assistance in spreading the word about this project. Attached please find a letter from Dr. Mueller; a description of the research project; an informed consent for participants; and the interview protocol for both parents and educators. Parents and educators interested in participating in this research project, or who need additional information, should contact Dr. Mueller at (970) 351-1664 or tracy.mueller@unco.edu.

In a separate matter, ODR is soliciting resumes of individuals interested in contracting with ODR as an independent contractor to provide hearing officer services for hearings pertaining to gifted education. Further information can be found on the attached job posting.



Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!



HIGHMARK.
WALK
FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
Organizations Unite to Make a Difference

Save The Date!

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Heinz Field, Pittsburgh, PA

We are one of 69 organizations participating in the 2011 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield underwrites 100 percent of the cost of the event and funds raised directly benefit the participating organizations.

Mark your calendar, find those walking shoes and look for more information to come soon!

www.walkforahealthycommunity.org



Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!

CLICK HERE TO MAKE A PERSONAL DONATION TO ABOARD!

Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. ABOARD is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990 within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

ABOARD is a member of the The Chamber of Commerce



United Way

United Way of Allegheny County Contributor Choice Agency Number 9817

Find us on Facebook 

Join our page or join our cause!

Find us on Facebook 

You can also
add a CAUSE Toolbar so every web search will help ABOARD generate
funds! <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/toolbar>



GOODSEARCH.COM or GOODSHOP.COM - Select "ABOARD

OUR MISSION

ABOARD IS DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING THE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS. THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING, AWARENESS BUILDING AND COLLABORATION, WE PROVIDE HOPE AND HELP TO PENNSYLVANIANS CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM.

412 - 781- 4116 or 800 - 827- 9385

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to autismnews@aboard.org by autismnews@aboard.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders | 35 Wilson Street, Suite 100 | Pittsburgh | PA | 15223